

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling viral replication and viral spread in a human subject having an HCV infection that was not successfully treated using a previous non-CpG therapy comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof an antiviral agent and a C class CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid having a semi-soft backbone and comprising
a sequence of

5' X₁DCGHX₂ 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, X₁ and X₂ are any nucleic acid sequence 0-10 nucleotides long, D is a nucleotide other than C, and H is a nucleotide other than G, and

a sequence of

5' CGG 3',

wherein the nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides in length, in an amount effective to control viral replication and viral spread of HCV.

66-79. (Cancelled)